



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

November 9, 2023

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

Join us Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. for a  
“Friends”-giving Feast

*Invite your friends and call or email to sign up  
to bring a side, salad, dessert, or other  
Thanksgiving style food.*

**GIVE SOMETHING THAT  
Means Something<sup>®</sup>**

**GIVE BLOOD**

**Blood Drive**  
**First Christian Church**  
In the Fellowship Hall  
201 W 3rd  
Maryville, MO 64468

**Friday, November 24, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: FCCMaryville to schedule an appointment.

can be directed to  
Rajiv@fsmail

Come give blood Nov. 10-30 for an exclusive pair of Elf & Red Cross socks, while supplies last! Join us to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the film Elf and make giving blood a holiday tradition! © & TM New Line Productions, Inc. (s23)

**FCC Youth will  
be packing  
shoe boxes  
and need your  
help.**

**You Can:**

- donate specific items for the youth to pack (**due Nov. 12**)
- pick up a shoe box to pack yourself (**due Nov. 17**).

For more information about the Operation Christmas Child program and on what can be packed in these shoe boxes, please see our display table in the narthex. Item cards and a sign-up sheet are also available on the display table. Boxes are available in the church office.

**Merlin Atkins**  
Property Manager

# Pastor's Pen

*A message from my heart to yours*



Throughout my weeks as I am out and about, I have many opportunities of waiting. In these moments, I find myself observing those around me. On many occasions I hear people complain with a little bit of "attitude." Some are complaining on their phones to unseen ears, some are complaining to the person beside them, some are complaining for all to hear, and some are complaining to whomever is on the other side of the table, counter, check-out line, etc. Although I may not be aware of exactly what they are experiencing, I could usually tell that the emotions were heightened, people were short (even rude), and the overall attitude driving their words and facial expressions were not something I would call pleasant. I would see people walk away, hang up the phone, end the conversation irritated, dissatisfied, and angry. I could sense how their frustration and disappointment was taking a toll, wearing on them, and leaving them discouraged. Practicing Gratitude is easier when everything goes just as we hoped. It's more of a stretch when we're surrounded by complaining, pessimism, judgment and exhausted others who are caught up in the circumstances often beyond their control.

I realize there is something I can do for myself and them. It's beyond feeling sorry for them or even praying for them, I send them healing energy and expressions of gratitude. As I considered what I may or may not know about their circumstances and particular challenges, I still hold space for them. I recognize that I've been there before and there are better ways to live in this incarnation.

Focusing on gratitude may pose a challenge if I am already caught up in focusing on worry and lack. Gratitude is easier when we're surrounded by love. When we're responding more than reacting. And when we remember that everything is happening *for* us not *to* us.

Let's work on practicing gratitude even during what we perceive as our most unwelcome situations. And you may ask what about someone else's unwelcome situation? Well, this is where we focus on sending out loving vibes infused with beautiful thoughts of gratitude!

Gratitude is far too significant to be saved for a particular holiday or month. We can change the world we live in when we make it a habit to express gratitude as often as possible. The energy and expression of Thanksgiving should be felt all year round.

Grateful for all I AM, all I have, and You,

*Gina* ❤️



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
201 WEST THIRD STREET  
MARYVILLE MO 64468

Return Service Requested

*FCC*  
MARYVILLE, MO

## Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity

2023  
National Native  
American Heritage Month



Have your newsletter sent  
directly to your inbox! Call or  
email us today!





660.214.3414  
[fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com](mailto:fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com)

NOVEMBER  
**EPILEPSY**  
AWARENESS MONTH

**Wear your purple!**  
**Sunday, Nov. 19**  
**10:30 a.m.**



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 Instagram and Facebook   
[@Fccmaryvillemo](https://www.instagram.com/fccmaryvillemo) [FCCMaryvilleMo](https://www.facebook.com/FCCMaryvilleMo)